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Items 67 and 68 (a) and (b) of the preliminary list*

Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States

Maintenance of international security: prevention of violent disintegration of States; stability and development of South-Eastern Europe

Letter dated 19 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to bring to your attention the joint declaration made in Skopje by Boris Trajkovski, President of the Republic of Macedonia, and Petar Stojanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on 15 May 2000, during the official visit to the Republic of Macedonia of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on 15 and 16 May 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under items 67 and 68 (a) and (b) of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Naste **Calovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/55/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 19 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Joint declaration

Mr. Boris Trajkovski, President of the Republic of Macedonia and Mr. Petar Stojanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, during Mr. Stojanov's state official visit to the Republic of Macedonia, reviewed the situation in South-Eastern Europe and regional security.

Highly appreciating the efforts of the international community for the stabilization of the situation on Kosovo, both of the Presidents confirmed their full support to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the KFOR mission and their determined steps towards the prevention of violence and towards democratization. At the same time, they expressed their concern with the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and call upon all concerned sides to abandon all forms of violence and to make their contribution to providing public order and security.

On this occasion, both of the Presidents reiterated their commitment to the full and principled implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

President Trajkovski and President Stojanov are convinced that it is necessary to establish a democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo, in which all human rights and freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to all ethnic communities, will be respected and they furthermore condemn all tendencies for an ethnically clean Kosovo.

President Trajkovski and President Stojanov condemn all forms of violence and extremism on any side, which maintain the tensions that are beneficial only for those who oppose the resolution of the crisis. They are especially concerned with the attempts of extremists to extend the conflict in southern Serbia, which serves the purposes of those who wish to spread the conflict in the neighbourhood.

Both of the Presidents advocate the return of all internally displaced persons and refugees to their homes on Kosovo. They express their support to the efforts of the international community to conduct a population census in Kosovo on the eve of the forthcoming local democratic elections. All ethnic communities on Kosovo need to take political responsibility for the situation on Kosovo.

Both of the Presidents pointed out that the provision of lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the region is only possible if greater-nation state and grand-nation concepts are abandoned and only if all issues and problems are resolved peacefully and by way of a dialogue, with full respect of all generally accepted international and European standards and principles. Therefore, they express their commitment to full respect of the existing borders and furthermore that they are resolutely opposed to any attempt for their reshaping.

In this context, President Trajkovski and President Stojanov support the efforts for prompt implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, which is

aimed not only at assisting the countries in the region to overcome the consequences of the Kosovo crisis, but is also aimed at supporting the countries in the region in their efforts towards democratization, economic reforms and larger security, which will accelerate their rapprochement with the European processes and standards.

In this respect, both of the Presidents express their support to the democratization of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which will enable its inclusion in the Stability Pact and will homogenize the democratic area in South-Eastern Europe.

President Trajkovski and President Stojanov express the hopes of their peoples that in the new millennium a new atmosphere will be created in the region. The signing of the declaration of 22 February 1999 between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Bulgaria is a proof that the countries in the region can turn to the future. This is confirmed by the recently adopted Charter on Good-neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe.

The Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Bulgaria are prepared, together with their neighbours, to design the new image of South-Eastern Europe, which will facilitate the common efforts towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration. They are convinced that the greatest guarantee for the further prosperity of the region is the full integration of these countries in NATO and in the European Union.

Expressing their readiness to undertake joint efforts for the maintenance of the stability in the neighbourhood and for prosperity of the region, President Trajkovski and President Stojanov call upon other leaders in South-Eastern Europe to join them in these common efforts.